



		NTSB ID: NYC08RA197		Aircraft Registration Number: SAN-100	
		Occurrence Date: 05/29/2008		Most Critical Injury: Fatal	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By:	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Panama City		State	Zip Code	Local Time 1410	Time Zone CDT
Airport Proximity:		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Bell		Model/Series UH-1N		Type of Aircraft Helicopter	
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On May 29, 2008, at 1410 central daylight time, a Bell UH-1H, operated by the Panamanian Servicio Aereo Nacional (SAN) as SAN-100, was destroyed when it impacted buildings in Panama City, Panama. The Panamanian pilot in command, the Panamanian flight mechanic, three Panamanian passengers and six Chilean passengers were fatally injured, and the Panamanian copilot was seriously injured. There were no injuries on the ground. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the visual flight rules flight that departed Enrique A. Jimenez Airport (MONX), Colon, Panama, at 1326, destined for a waterfront hotel landing pad in Panama City, Panama. The VIP transport flight was conducted under Panamanian flight regulations.</p> <p>According to Panamanian authorities, the passengers included senior officials from both Panama and Chile, including the Director General of the Chilean National Police (Los Carabineros), who were attending an international conference.</p> <p>A radar review revealed that while approaching the hotel helipad from seaward (from the south, over the Bay of Panama), the helicopter made one 360-degree turn, then another 270-degree turn, and headed eastward toward a different part of the shoreline. Crossing the shoreline, it appeared to be headed over buildings, toward Marco A. Gelabert (Albrook) Airport (MPMG), Panama City, Panama, before disappearing from the radar. The helicopter's altitudes were not recorded.</p> <p>According to the copilot, while approaching the hotel helipad, the helicopter experienced a power loss from the left engine, making it impossible to land at the pad. The crew concentrated on maintaining flight, and headed toward Marco A. Gelabert Airport. En route, the helicopter impacted the top of a building.</p> <p>An examination of the accident scene revealed that the majority of the tailboom was on the roof of a four-story building, the majority of the cabin, including the engines, was on the roof of a second, lower building, and that the majority of the cockpit had continued off the second building, down into a street.</p> <p>A subsequent examination of the wreckage and engines in a hanger revealed that the airframe and flight controls had no preimpact anomalies that would have precluded normal operations, and that the left engine "was not operating normally at the time of the accident." The engines were subsequently transported to the manufacturer for further examination under Panamanian oversight.</p> <p>The accident investigation is under the jurisdiction of the government of Panama. Further information may be obtained from:</p> <p>Autoridad Aeronautica Civil (AAC) Aeropuerto Marcos A. Gelabert Via Diogenes de la Rosa, Edificio 805</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board <b>FACTUAL REPORT</b> <b>AVIATION</b></p>	NTSB ID: NYC08RA197	
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<b>Narrative</b> (Continued)		
<p>Apartado 7501 o 7615 Panama 5, Republica de Panama</p> <p>Tel: (507) 501-9300 <a href="http://www.aeronautica.gob.pa">http://www.aeronautica.gob.pa</a></p> <p>This report is for informational purposes only, and contains only information released by, or obtained from the government of Panama.</p>		
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<b>Landing Facility/Approach Information</b>						
Airport Name		Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:						
Runway Surface Condition:						
Type Instrument Approach:						
VFR Approach/Landing:						
<b>Aircraft Information</b>						
Aircraft Manufacturer Bell		Model/Series UH-1N		Serial Number		
Airworthiness Certificate(s):						
Landing Gear Type:						
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats:	Certified Max Gross Wt. LBS		Number of Engines:		
Engine Type:	Engine Manufacturer:	Model/Series:		Rated Power:		
<b>- Aircraft Inspection Information</b>						
Type of Last Inspection	Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection Hours		Airframe Total Time Hours		
<b>- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information</b>						
ELT Installed?	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?				
<b>Owner/Operator Information</b>						
Registered Aircraft Owner		Street Address				
		City	State	Zip Code		
Operator of Aircraft Servicio Aereo Nacional		Street Address				
		City Panama City	State	Zip Code		
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:			
<b>- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None</b>						
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):						
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:			
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Non-U.S., Non-Commercial						
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Public Use - Federal						
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		Occurrence Type: Accident							
<b>First Pilot Information</b>									
Name On File			City		State				
Date of Birth		Age							
Sex:	Seat Occupied:	Principal Profession:		Certificate Number:					
Certificate(s):									
Airplane Rating(s):									
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA:									
Instrument Rating(s):									
Instructor Rating(s):									
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft?			Current Biennial Flight Review?						
Medical Cert.:		Medical Cert. Status:		Date of Last Medical Exam:					
<b>- Flight Time Matrix</b>	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument Actual      Simulated	Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
Total Time									
Pilot In Command(PIC)									
Instructor									
Last 90 Days									
Last 30 Days									
Last 24 Hours									
Seatbelt Used?		Shoulder Harness Used?		Toxicology Performed?		Second Pilot?			
<b>Flight Plan/Itinerary</b>									
Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR									
Departure Point					State	Airport Identifier	Departure Time	Time Zone	
Colon						ONX			
Destination					State	Airport Identifier			
Same as Accident/Incident Location									
Type of Clearance:									
Type of Airspace:									
<b>Weather Information</b>									
Source of Briefing:									
Method of Briefing:									
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION									

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		Occurrence Type: Accident			


<b>Weather Information</b>					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation <div style="text-align: center;">Ft. MSL</div>	WOF Distance From Accident Site <div style="text-align: center;">NM</div>	Direction From Accident Site <div style="text-align: center;">Deg. Mag.</div>
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition:			Ft. AGL	Condition of Light:	
Lowest Ceiling:			Ft. AGL	Visibility:	SM
Temperature: °C		Dew Point: °C	Wind Direction:		Altimeter: "Hg
Wind Speed:		Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions		
Visibility (RVR): Ft.		Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:		
Restrictions to Visibility:					
Type of Precipitation:					

<b>Accident Information</b>					
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed		Aircraft Fire:		Aircraft Explosion	
Classification:					

- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot	1				1
Second Pilot		1			1
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants					
Other Crew	1				1
Passengers	9				9
- TOTAL ABOARD -	11	1			12
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -	11	1			12

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<b>Administrative Information</b>		
Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) Paul R. Cox		
Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:  Robert Drake AAI-100		
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